

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

This is one of the most blatant and flagrant attempts at skirting the broadcast laws of this country. If the FCC remains silent on this and allows such obviously one-sided and politically motivated programming to be aired in violation of campaign laws, you will lose all credibility with the American people and become yet another puppet of big corporations.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.